

441778

Steve

Mandy

44.10
50.10

A7.2.11

19/9/89

Dear Wandy

Laurie asked if you could get these out.

Thanks a million
with love.

Steve only.

+ I suppose try + get
a response from them
a.s.a.p. !!

Funds - R8500

ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE FORUM

P O BOX 190 WOODSTOCK 7915

13 September 1989

The Congress of South African Trade Unions

Dear friend

We are approaching you with an unusual invitation.

We are concerned with the tremendous moral, social and economic dilemma compulsory military conscription is causing for South Africa's sons.

We are to publish a newspaper advertisement signed by about thirty prominent South Africans, calling for a system of alternative national service, and invite you to be one of the signatories.

The wording of the advertisement, and the names of the people we are asking to sign it are enclosed.

This initiative is being coordinated by the Alternative National Service (ANS) Forum which exists to promote the idea of alternative service. The forum includes representatives from the Democratic Party, Black Sash, NICRO, Cape Democrats and organisations representing conscientious objectors. It seeks no public profile or support for itself, but rather for the idea.

Finally we would like to request that you consider assisting us with the financial burden of placing the advertisement. We would like your response to this by Friday, 22 September 1989.

We trust that you will consider this initiative favorably.

Yours sincerely

Dr P J Roos, MB, BCh, MRCOG
(for the ANS Forum)
Telephone (021-)531-1526

The advertisement is as follows:

Every year thousands of young white men are called-up into the SADF. Many conscripts are unwilling to do military service, for a range of moral, political, economic and psychological reasons. Only a few of these will qualify as "religious objectors" and will be allowed to do community service. The rest will have to choose between exile, attempting to evade the authorities, or taking a stand as moral objectors and facing a maximum of six years imprisonment.

We believe that it would be in the interests of these men, their families and the country as a whole if they were allowed to do a civilian form of national service.

We therefore call on the government to give conscripts the choice of doing either military or civilian national service.

We believe that civilian service should:

1. be available to all conscripts who in conscience cannot serve in the SADF
2. be available in non-government and government institutions, and
3. be non-punitive relative to military service.

People we will approach to endorse this advertisement are:

Vice-chancellors of Universities

UCT, Wits, Rhodes, Natal, UWC

Church Leaders:

Archbishop D Tutu, Rev F Chikane, Rev S Mogoba,

Rev J Swart, Bishop W Napier, Rev D Bax, Ds B Kotze

Anti-apartheid organisations:

UDF, COSATU

Democratic Party members:

Dr Z de Beer, Mr W Malan, Dr D Worrall, Mrs H Burnett,

Mrs C Charlewood, Commander V Holderness, Mr D Plane,

General B Rogers, Major-General W Black

Entertainers and writers:

Johnny Clegg, Athol Fugard, David Kramer,

Nadine Gordimer, Pieter-Dirk Uys, Andre Brink

Sportspeople:

Michael du Plessis, Bruce Fordyce, Peter Kirsten

All Newspaper editors

Prominent Afrikaners:

Mr W de Klerk, Dr L Luyt, Prof S Terreblanche,

Dr A Wassenaar

Imprisoned Conscientious Objectors

Businesspeople:

Dr F Abrahamse, Mr J Ogilvie-Thompson, Mr G Relly,

Mr H Oppenheimer, Mr M Rosholt, Dr A Rupert

Other people:

Mrs M Burton, Sir Richard Luyt,, Mr G Oliver, Dr F Sonn

Mrs H Suzman, Dr F Van Zyl Slabbert, Dr Beyers Naudé

ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL SERVICE FORUM

P O BOX 190 WOODSTOCK 7915

13 September 1989

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Mrs H Suzman, Dr F Van Zyl Slabbert, Dr Beyers Naudé

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